

BIOS -- FALL 2021

Alarcon, Judge Gregory (*Trial Practice*): Judge Gregory W. Alarcon has been a judge for over 26 years. Before that, he was a deputy attorney general for the State of California, a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County, and an assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California. Judge Alarcon received a J.D. from Loyola Law School in 1981 and a B.A. from UCLA. For the past 29 years, he has been an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University School of Law teaching trial practice, trial skills and landmark cases, trial preparation and settlement and evidence. In 2017, he was awarded the David McKibben Excellence in Teaching award given to an adjunct faculty member who exemplifies excellence in teaching and devotion to the students at Pepperdine. He is also active in training and educating new judges and teaching ethics to judges throughout the state. He is a frequent lecturer on various topics on trial issues including subjects such as “Lessons from Landmark Trials,” “Judicial Personalities,” “Creative Solutions for Keeping and Motivating Jurors”, “Coping With Judicial and Lawyer Stress”, “Civility in Court”, “Hamlet for Lawyers”, “Ideal Mentors for the Courtroom” and many others. He has written numerous articles on legal issues for lawyers and judges. In 2013, Judge Alarcon was given the 2013 Constitutional Right's Foundation “Judge of the Year” award and a Judicial Excellence award from the Mexican American Bar Association.

Amstutz, Taylor (*Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation Lab I*): Professor Amstutz is currently an Equal Justice Works Elder Justice Program Fellow at BetTzedek Legal Services. She provides legal services to survivors of elder abuse by representing clients at restraining order hearings, operating a legal services clinic, conducting education and outreach, and engaging in collaborative work with community partners. Prior to joining Bet Tzedek, Professor Amstutz was an associate at Terri Hilliard, PC, where she provided representation at conservatorship hearings and empowered elderly clients through comprehensive estate planning and advocacy. As a post-bar law clerk and during law school, Professor Amstutz worked at the Ventura and Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Offices conducting preliminary hearings and drafting memoranda on complex issues. Professor Amstutz graduated from Pepperdine Law with a Juris Doctorate degree and a certificate in Dispute Resolution. During law school, Professor Amstutz participated in the Sudreau Global Justice Program in Uganda on several occasions where she represented prisoners and negotiated plea agreements on their behalf. As a member of the Restoration and Justice Clinic, Professor Amstutz presented her research on the importance of holistically addressing the intersection of domestic violence and human trafficking to a Department of Justice sponsored delegation of Bangladeshi prosecutors and judges. Professor Amstutz also participated in the inaugural Anti-Trafficking Legislation Lab, served as the Women’s Legal Association Representative at Pepperdine, and served as a board member of PAUSE4kids, a local nonprofit. In her free time, Professor Amstutz enjoys spending time with her pug, hiking, traveling, and engaging in various volunteer opportunities in the anti-trafficking space.

Azadian, James (*Role of the Appellate Lawyer*): James Azadian is a Member in Dykema's Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. offices and serves as the co-leader of the firm's nationwide Appellate and Complex Motion Practice. Mr. Azadian specializes in complex federal and state court commercial litigation raising cutting-edge and core business issues, the First Amendment to the Constitution, Article I of the California Constitution, and the application of California's anti-SLAPP statute in federal court. He is widely published and frequently cited as a leading authority on appellate advocacy. He served as a law clerk to Ninth Circuit Judge Consuelo Maria Callahan and District Judge Ricardo Manuel Urbina of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Mr. Azadian serves as an adjunct professor, having taught courses in Appellate Advocacy at Pepperdine University School of Law, Law and Economics at UCLA, the Supreme Court Practicum at Northwestern University School of Law, and Legal Ethics at USC. He is the principal editor and contributing author of the Ninth Circuit's Appellate Lawyers' Practice Guide. The Daily Journal recognized Mr. Azadian as one of the Top 40 Under 40 Attorneys in California. He was also recognized as one of Pepperdine University's inaugural 40 Under 40 Honorees. Mr. Azadian is nationally recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in America®.

Chapman, Nathan (*Christian Perspectives on Law*): Nathan S. Chapman is the Pope F. Brock Associate Professor of Professional Responsibility at the University of Georgia School of Law. His teaching and scholarship focuses on constitutional law, religious liberty, and legal history. He is a McDonald Distinguished Fellow with the Emory Center for the Study of Law and Religion and a Nootbaar Fellow with Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. He was formerly the Executive Director of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center. He practiced law at WilmerHale, clerked for the Honorable Gerald Bard Tjoflat of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, received law and theology degrees from Duke University and his undergraduate degree from Belmont University.

Dejute, David (*Ethical Lawyering and Disaster Recovery Clinic*): David A. Dejute is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and of Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, Professor Dejute practiced law as a student attorney at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, the oldest such entity in the country. Upon graduating from law school, Professor Dejute accepted an appointment as a law clerk to the Hon. William J. Rea, U.S. District Judge (deceased). Professor Dejute then practiced law at two private law firms in Los Angeles in their litigation departments before joining the legal department at Sony Pictures as its Vice President of Litigation. From there, Professor Dejute accepted another federal appointment as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California, notably representing then-President Barack Obama at the trial and appellate levels, beating back challenges to Mr. Obama's fitness to hold the office of President. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, for

the past few years Professor DeJute has worked as general counsel to Dub Bros., a privately held company, as well as of counsel at Michelman & Robinson, where he practices in the complex litigation department. Professor DeJute remains grateful to teach at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, where young minds are taught the law with the hope that the skills learned will be used in service for others.

DeWalt, Danny (*Faith, Leadership, and the Practice of Law*): Professor DeWalt graduated from California State University, Bakersfield in Psychology, Pacific Lutheran University with a Masters in Marriage & Family Therapy, Princeton Theological Seminary with a Masters in Divinity, and California Western School of Law. He started in full-time ministry for 7 years and then became a lawyer for 15 years (at Goff & DeWalt, LLP) before coming to Pepperdine Law full time in 2014. He is the Vice President of the non-profit, Love Does. Professor DeWalt served at the law school for 5 years as the Associate Dean for Administration and the Director of the Parris Institute for Professional Formation. He is now Vice President and Chief of Staff for Pepperdine University and the Executive Director of the Sudreau Global Justice Program. Professor DeWalt has been teaching at Pepperdine since 2008.

Dhillon, Steven (*Role of the Solo Practitioner*): While an undergraduate student at Pepperdine University, Steven Dhillon founded and operated *The Palisades Project*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provided school supplies, medical equipment, food and clothing to disadvantaged children throughout southern California and Mexico. After majoring in history at Pepperdine, where he served as the captain of the Pepperdine Speech and Debate Team, Mr. Dhillon continued his education at The University of Iowa College of Law and Tippie College of Business. As a law student, Mr. Dhillon made the Jessup International Moot Court Team and was awarded *Best Oralist* of the 2009 Iowa International Moot Court Competition. Mr. Dhillon also worked as a research assistant to one of the nation's leading scholars on wills, trusts and estates, Professor Sheldon "Shelly" Kurtz. While a student at the Tippie College of Business, Mr. Dhillon founded and operated *Malibu Sun Tanning Salon* and *Malibu Sun Day Spa* where he employed University of Iowa students and industry professionals who provided cosmetic, tanning and spa services to the students and community of Iowa City, IA. Mr. Dhillon studied as a visiting student at Pepperdine University School of Law where he received the *Excellence for the Future Award* for his achievements in the study of wills and trusts. Mr. Dhillon clerked at the law offices of Gordon & Silver, Ltd., in Las Vegas, NV where he performed extensive research in its litigation and criminal law departments and drafted the firm's appellate brief to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals stemming from its client's TASER-related death. Following the conclusion of his legal studies at Pepperdine in 2010, Mr. Dhillon founded *The Steven Dhillon Law Firm, APLC*, located in Westlake Village, Ca. Mr. Dhillon would quickly find tremendous success representing individuals who have suffered catastrophic injuries from vehicle accidents, dangerous conditions on public/private property, and from dog/animal attacks. Mr. Dhillon routinely litigates, to jury verdict, cases against billion-dollar corporations and has recovered millions of dollars in compensation for his injured clients. As a result of his meteoric

rise in personal injury practice, Mr. Dhillon has been named *Top 10 Personal Injury Attorneys in California*, *Best Personal Injury Attorney in Westlake Village, Ca*, *Top 1% of Attorneys in California*, *Top 100 Trial Attorneys in California*, and *California's Law Firm of the Year*.

Goff, Bob (*Faith, Leadership, and the Practice of Law*): Professor Goff graduated from San Diego State University and The University of San Diego School of Law. He spent 25 years as a lawyer before giving up his law firm, Goff & DeWalt, LLP, to write and speak full-time. He is a New York Times Bestselling author having published his first two books; *Love Does* and *Everybody Always*, and is a highly sought-after speaker in churches, non-profits, and for-profit companies around the world. He is also the President of the non-profit organization, Love Does, which serves children affected by the conflict areas of the world. Professor Goff has been teaching at Pepperdine Law since 2008.

Griffin, Missy (*Role of the Real Estate Investor: Multi State Real Estate Survey*): Griffin is an associate with Gibbs Giden, a leading construction and real estate law firm in California. She is also a former Palmer Center student chair. Prior to becoming an attorney, Griffin worked in operations for a national leading multifamily residential company with assets in five states on the West Coast and served in various positions with the largest owner and operator of more than 12 million square feet of premium showroom and exhibition space serving the home furnishing

Kaye, Barry (*Role of the Real Estate Investor: Multi State Real Estate Survey*): Kaye is a graduate of Cardozo School of Law in New York City. He practices real estate and corporate law and has 4 years of experience as a lecturer-in-law at USC Gould School of Law and has taught at Berkeley Law at UC Berkeley. He serves as an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and a mediator for the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District.

Kublicki, Nicolas (*Real Estate Transactions*): Nicolas Kublicki is an LA native who obtained his BA from UCLA, his JD from Pepperdine, and his LLM in environmental law from George Washington University. He worked in the policy and environmental departments at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC then practiced real estate finance at Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger in LA and real estate transactions and environmental law at Ervin, Cohen & Jessup in Beverly Hills, from which he retired as a partner. Nicolas is a licensed California real estate broker and owns a real estate investment company that both owns and operates condominium, single family, and multifamily residential rental properties. He is fluent in French, actively involved in charitable activities for the poor and sick, and has published two thriller novels. Nicolas is married with two daughters.

McCollum, Cameron (*Anti Human Trafficking Legislation Lab I, Human Rights*): Cameron McCollum joined the Pepperdine staff as the Director of the Sudreau Global Justice Institute in the fall of 2019. Prior to returning to Pepperdine to become the SGJI Director, Cameron practiced law in Dallas, Texas as an associate at Kirkland & Ellis. He received his BBA in Business from Baylor University in 2011, and his J.D. from Pepperdine Caruso Law magna cum laude in 2017. Before attending law school, Cameron helped launch a real estate start up and was actively involved in ministry leadership through his local church. Through his roles in ministry, he participated and led many trips to Africa and developing nations around the world.

Michael, Shane (*Trial Practice*): Professor Shane Michael is a Deputy District Attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. He has tried more than 20 felonies, including murder, attempted murder, and gang-related crimes. He is a Pepperdine alum, graduating in 2012. He spent the following year in Uganda as Pepperdine's Nootbaar Fellow, working to implement plea-bargaining in their criminal justice system and also as a Court Accredited Mediator with the Commercial Court. Prior to law school, he taught high school English for seven years. This will be his fifth semester as an adjunct professor.

Newton, Deanna (*Federal Income Taxation*): Deanna S. Newton received her Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University School of Law. After law school, she obtained her Tax LL.M from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. In 2018, she joined KPMG's International Tax Group. She is currently an International Tax Senior Associate at KPMG. Her legal expertise and practice involve researching, drafting memos, and advising multinational companies in tax planning strategies including the use of complex models to assist in making the best decisions in light of global tax reform. She also provides guidance in international tax issues such as reporting and filing requirements to clients conducting business abroad as well as foreign clients conducting business in the United States.

Nibecker, Brent (*Trial Preparation and Settlement – Criminal*): Mr. Nibecker is a supervising deputy district attorney for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. He currently supervises the District Attorney's Sexual Assault and Family Protection Unit. In that capacity he leads a team of roughly 20 prosecutors who handle sexual assault, child molestation, domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking cases. Mr. Nibecker previously supervised the District Attorney's Misdemeanor Unit where he was responsible for training new prosecutors. As a trial prosecutor Mr. Nibecker has primarily prosecuted domestic violence and child molestation cases. Outside of the courtroom he has drafted legislation and serves as an instructor at the Ventura County Sheriff's Academy. Mr. Nibecker is also the president of the Ventura County Prosecutor's Association. He attended Pepperdine Law School where his greatest achievement was co-founding the annual dodgeball tournament. Mr. Nibecker

lives in Camarillo with his wife and their four children. J.D., Pepperdine University, 2007, cum laude B.A., University of California, San Diego, 2004, cum laude.

Nissel, Sarah (*Faith & Family Law Mediation Clinic*): Sarah M. Nissel joined the Jewish Divorce Assistance Center (JDAC) as its founding Director in 2015. Prior to joining JDAC, Ms. Nissel worked in the areas of white-collar criminal defense and complex civil litigation at Bird Marella, *et al.*, a Los Angeles-based litigation boutique firm. Before joining Bird Marella, Ms. Nissel worked as an Associate at Morvillo, Abramowitz, *et al.*, a boutique litigation firm in New York City. Ms. Nissel has served as a fellow at the Innocence Project, where she gained experience working on criminal proceedings at the state level. Ms. Nissel graduated with honors from Yale University in 2003 where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Literature. She received her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2008 where she was a Dean's Scholar.

Philpott, Brian (*Patent Law*): Brian J. Philpott is a partner with Ferguson Case Orr Paterson in Westlake Village where he is a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group. His practice focuses on patent prosecution and litigation, trademarks, copyrights, and internet and domain name matters. Mr. Philpott has litigated several intellectual property cases before state and federal courts in California and New York, as well as before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. His technological expertise is in video games, optics and imaging devices, semiconductor technologies, sports equipment, fashion, and e-commerce. As a founder of two tech companies, Mr. Philpott is active in the entrepreneurial community and has extensive experience counseling early-stage companies. His educational background is also technical, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 2001 and a Juris Doctorate from the Pepperdine School of Law in 2005. Outside of the office and the classroom, Mr. Philpott enjoys trivia, athletics, and quantum physics.

Richmond, John Cotton (*Human Rights: Human Trafficking: Law, Policy . . .*):

John Cotton Richmond is a partner in Dentons' [Federal Regulatory and Compliance](#) practice. Previously, John served as the US Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons for the US Department of State. John's career has been spent at the intersection of law, policy and human rights -- as a federal prosecutor, founding director of the Human Trafficking Institute, director of the International Justice Mission in Chennai, India, and as Ambassador. John's career has taken him to the front lines in the global battle against human trafficking. After being unanimously confirmed by the Senate, he served as the US Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons from 2018 to 2021. Serving in the nation's highest ranking position dedicated to human trafficking, he led US foreign policy related to modern slavery and coordinated the US government's response the crime.

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador, John co-founded the Human Trafficking Institute which works to decimate trafficking at its source by improving criminal justice systems to hold traffickers accountable and ensure freedom for victims. For over a decade, John served as a federal prosecutor with the US Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, where he prosecuted numerous victim-centered labor and sex trafficking cases. John also lived in India for several years pioneering International Justice Mission's slavery work. During this

period he spent time in over fifty countries for work, developing an understanding of various countries legal systems, government structures, and bureaucratic processes. John applies this unique understanding to investigations, lawsuits, and diplomatic disputes to achieve measurable results.

John has received numerous honors and commendations, including having been named a “Prosecutor of the Year” and receiving the David Alred Award for exceptional contributions to civil rights. His work caused the former head of the FBI’s human trafficking program to call him “every trafficker’s worst nightmare.”

Robbins. Alexander (*White Collar Crime*): Professor Robbins is an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Appeals Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. Before that, he was the Section Reviewer in the Criminal Appeals Section of the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Professor Robbins has litigated tax crimes and white-collar fraud crimes on behalf of the federal government since 2009, and has briefed more than 75 cases at all three levels of the federal judicial system (district court, courts of appeals, and Supreme Court). He received the John Marshall Award (the Department of Justice's highest subject-specific award) for appellate advocacy in 2013. Before joining the Department of Justice, Professor Robbins was an associate at the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and a law clerk to Judge Sandra Ikuta on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He is a native of Los Angeles, growing up in the Mid-Wilshire area. Given Professor Robbins’s extensive experience and Los Angeles roots, he intends to introduce his students to a number of prominent LA-area practitioners during this course, which will feature guest lectures by federal judges and leading federal prosecutors and defense attorneys. Professor Robbins received his J.D. degree from the University of Chicago Law School, where he graduated with honors and was an editor of the Chicago Law Review. He received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University, with distinction, majoring in history and economics.

Wu, Sam (*Startup Law Clinic*): Sam Wu received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). After law school, Professor Wu joined the Corporate and Securities Group of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto. In 2010, he co-founded Innovation Capital Law Group specializing in working with technology startups and is currently the lead partner for the Corporate and Securities Group of the firm. He has represented companies in over \$5 billion in seed financings, angel investments, venture capital financings, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings. He is an experienced startup attorney representing technology and emerging growth companies involving corporate formation, corporate governance, corporate financings (venture capital and angel financings), mergers and acquisitions, licensing transactions, and initial public offerings. Professor Wu is the founder and author of www.TechStartupLawyer.com, a blog answering the most important questions technology startups should be asking.